

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO GERASIMOS C. VANS ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Gerasimos (Gerry) Vans, who is retiring after more than 25 years of distinguished service to this institution. Throughout his years of service to the House, Gerry has tackled a wide range of institutional challenges. In every aspect of his service to the House, Gerry has demonstrated his characteristic professionalism, knowledge, and creativity, and has without exception conducted himself with the utmost integrity.

Gerry, a native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin began his career with summer intern positions in the House and Senate while attending college. Following his graduation from Marquette University, Gerry pursued a masters degree at The George Washington University while employed in the House mail room. Gerry began his congressional career in earnest following his appointment to the U.S. Capitol Police force where he remained for two years. His next appointment was as the Executive Assistant to the House Sergeant at Arms, where he served as secretary to the U.S. Capitol Police Board and primary Capitol Police liaison for the Sergeant at Arms. Gerry had primary operational responsibilities for major House events and congressional funeral delegations, and was a key staffer in Capitol security planning.

Since joining the Office of the Clerk's front office staff in 1991, he has served under four Clerks, first in a support capacity to senior management, and since 1995 as a senior manager—as Special Assistant, Assistant to the Clerk, 1999, and Deputy Clerk, 2003. Because of his fluency with congressional operations and practice, he is frequently called upon to brief visiting foreign parliamentarians and senior officials, and has participated in various legislative-related conferences.

Gerry has also been instrumental in the development and implementation of the Lobbying Disclosure Act; the five-year project to move the Legislative Information Management System, LIMS, from a mainframe to a client-server platform; the Document Management Initiative: conversion of all legislative documents to a common Extensible Markup Language (XML) standard; Continuity of Operations: development and planning leading to the first comprehensive House-wide continuity of operations apparatus; and the development of the History and Preservation Office.

Over the years, Gerry's responsibilities have grown to include the day-to-day oversight and operations of the Clerk's 9 departments and 270 employees, which provide legislative and information services to the House and the general public. He is involved daily and directly with such issues as Member of Congress relations, House floor operations, plan-

ning, personnel, procurement, information technology, printing, oversight of vacant congressional offices, and event planning.

There is no doubt that the House as an institution is losing one of its hardest working public servants. Gerry's dedication and professionalism has spanned both Democratic and Republican majorities, during which time his mission has always been to complete any task, big or small, with the same tenacity and thoroughness. Gerry will be dearly missed by the House of Representatives and by all those among us who have had the pleasure of working with him during his more than 25 years of service.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of this institution, I wish to extend to Gerry Vans our heartfelt gratitude for his tireless service to the House, and wish him the very best as he embarks upon his new career.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT R. RUBANO, JR.

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the superintendent of Farrell Schools, Robert R. Rubano, Jr., and the school board members who have served for over 9 years.

Mr. Rubano not only serves as the superintendent of the schools in Farrell, but also teaches a leadership class to juniors and seniors in the school district 1 day a week. The subjects taught in the class vary from speech preparation to key decision making to job and college outlook. This leadership class has become very popular among students in the Farrell School District.

Mr. Rubano has been the superintendent of the Farrell School District since 1997. Before committing to be the superintendent, Mr. Rubano spent many years as a teacher, then principal. Mr. Rubano served as a team facilitator for a group of 10 who designed new math curriculum for grades K–6. He also assisted in writing the district's Act 178 Professional Development Plan. Mr. Rubano has dedicated his career to bettering the education of young minds.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing all of the hard work and time Robert R. Rubano, Jr. has put in to making the school district better. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute such a dedicated individual like Robert R. Rubano, Jr.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF ROOSEVELT EARLY

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Roosevelt Early, a veteran high school educator from Crossett, AR, who died at the age of 72 on February 26, 2006. I wish to recognize his lifetime of dedication to public education and the city of Crossett.

A native of West Helena, AR, Mr. Early earned a bachelor's degree at Arkansas Agricultural, Mechanical, and Normal College, now the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, UAPB, where he played football and sang in the choir. Mr. Early also attended the University of Central Arkansas where he received a master's degree.

Moving to Crossett in 1958, Mr. Early spent nearly a half century as a public school educator at T.W. Daniel and Crossett School District. He began as a shop teacher at T.W. Daniel High School in 1958 and rose to the post of assistant principal of T.W. Daniel Middle School in 1973, and principal 2 short years later of T.W. Daniel High School. Following his tenure at T.W. Daniel, Mr. Early served as principal at Norman Junior High School beginning in 1980 and Crossett High School in 1985.

Mr. Early was active throughout the Ashley County community. He served as director of the E.C. Crossett Community Center, president of the UAPB Ashley County Alumni Association, and was a member of the Ashley County Medical Center Board of Directors, Ashley County Martin Luther King Planning Commission, Phi Delta Kappa Educational Society, Georgia-Pacific Planning Commission, the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators, the Arkansas Association of Secondary Principals, Crossett Classroom Teachers Association, Arkansas Education Association and the National Education Association.

As a man of faith, Mr. Early served as chairman of the Deacon Board at New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church and chairman of the Trustee Board. The Roosevelt Early Memorial Scholarship was started shortly after his death to commemorate and honor the impact he made as an educator at Crossett High School.

As the son of public school educators, I believe there are few jobs more noble than that of educating our Nation's children. Mr. Early spent a lifetime dedicated to this end. I extend my deepest condolences to his wife of 48 years, Lendora; his daughters, Cassandra and Patricia; his brother, David; his sisters, Thelma, Lola, and Alma, and his grandchildren, Kenyellshia and Chase. Though Mr. Early may no longer be with us, his spirit and legacy will live on for generations to come.

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